

## SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Euphorbia operta* Halford & W.K.Harris (Euphorbiaceae),  
a new name for *Euphorbia occulta* Halford &  
W.K.Harris, *nom. illeg.* and lectotypification of the  
name *Euphorbia australis* var. *subtomentosa* Domin**

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In our recent taxonomic treatment of *Euphorbia* section *Anisophyllum* Roesler (Euphorbiaceae) in Australia (Halford & Harris 2012) we incorrectly published the name *E. occulta* Halford & W.K.Harris for an endemic Australian species from northwest Queensland. We were unaware that the name had already been applied by Klotzsch (1856) to a North America species, so the use of the name by us was illegitimate, being a much later homonym. Therefore a new name *Euphorbia operta* Halford & W.K.Harris is provided here for the Australian species. The specific epithet is from Latin, *opertus*, hidden from sight, concealed, in reference to the concealment of the involucre glands by the erect hood-like gland appendages of this species.

***Euphorbia operta* Halford & W.K.Harris, *nom. nov.*; *Euphorbia occulta* Halford & W.K.Harris, *Austrobaileya* 8: 529–530 (2012), *nom. illeg.*, *non* Klotzsch, *Bot. Voy. Herald [Seemann]* 7–8: 277 (1856). **Type:** Queensland. BURKE DISTRICT: 12.3 km along Lake Moondara Road from Barkly Highway, N of Mt Isa, 1 July 2011, *D. Halford QM524A* (holo: BRI, iso: DNA, K, MEL, MICH, NT, *distribuenti*).**

We also overlooked the need to lectotypify the name *Euphorbia australis* var. *subtomentosa* Domin in order to fix the application of this name. Domin's (1927) description of *E. australis* var. *subtomentosa* was based on

material collected by Dr E. Clement from between the Ashburton and De Grey Rivers in Western Australia. There are four sheets that were seen by Domin, one in PR [528303] and three in K [186468, 186496, 186467]. These comprise all the original material for the name that we have been able to locate. Careful examination of the four sheets clearly indicated that the specimens affixed to them belong to two different taxa, namely those currently known as *E. australis* var. *subtomentosa* (K 186468, PR 528303 (lower two fragments)) and *E. vaccaria* Baill. var. *vaccaria* (K 186496, 186467, PR 528303 (upper three fragments)). There is little doubt that all the material was used by Domin in his formulation of the original description of *E. australis* var. *subtomentosa*. The specimen numbered K 186468 is selected here as lectotype of *E. australis* var. *subtomentosa*. If either of the sheets (K 186496, 186467) or fragments (PR 528303 (upper three fragments)) were chosen as lectotype, *E. australis* var. *subtomentosa* would have to be placed in synonymy under *E. vaccaria* and a new name would be required for what is currently known as *E. australis* var. *subtomentosa*.

***Euphorbia australis* var. *subtomentosa* Domin, *Biblioth. Bot.* 89(4): 310 (1927 '1926'). **Type:** Western Australia. Inter Ashburton et De Grey [Grey] River *s.d.*, *E. Clement s.n.* (lectotype [here chosen]: K 186468; isotype: PR 528303 (lower two fragments)).**

## References

- DOMIN, K. (1927). *Euphorbia* L. In Beiträge zur Flora und Pflanzengeographie Australiens, 1. Teil, 3. Abt. *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 306–312.
- HALFORD, D.A. & HARRIS, W.K. (2012). A taxonomic revision of *Euphorbia* section *Anisophyllum* Roeper (Euphorbiaceae) in Australia. *Austrobaileya* 8: 441–600.
- KLOTZSCH, J.F. (1856). Euphorbiaceae. In B.C. Seemann, *Botany of the Voyage of H.M.S. Herald, under the Command of Captain Henry Kellett, R.N., C.B., during the years 1845-1851*, pp. 276–278. L. Reeve: London.